

in the forgotten corners of a deindustrialized Great Lakes region and Appalachian coal fields that need new jobs and innovation.

Our bill responsibly delivers for America. In fact, we set our Nation on a path toward a better, brighter, and more resilient future to be energy, water, and nuclear secure.

Further, I am excited that our Great Lakes Authority legislation is included in this omnibus. This new Federal instrumentality will unlock our industrial heartland's full potential, and it is so much an honor to be able to be a part of the team that passes this omnibus bill today.

□ 0915

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

(Mr. HUIZENGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, as the 117th Congress comes to a close, I rise today to say it has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve Michiganders across Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Nawaygo, Oceana, Lake, Mason, and Allegan Counties in the current Second District.

West Michigan is blessed to have beautiful beaches, world-class manufacturing, and an incredible variety of top-notch agricultural produce. But what makes places like Muskegon, Grand Haven, Ludington, Pentwater, Fremont, Baldwin, and Grandville so special are the people who call these communities home.

It is embracing servant leadership. It is emphasizing the value of hard work, and it is fostering the drive to go the extra mile that makes west Michigan such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, as I say goodbye to the current Second District, I will never forget the residents who have called the Second Congressional District home over the past 10 years or the memories we have shared.

Please know that I will continue to be a champion for you and for Michigan. It has been an honor and a blessing to be your voice in Washington.

#### RECKLESS AND BLOATED SPENDING BILL WILL COST AMERICANS

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2617.

Democrats are railroading this \$1.7 trillion bill full of garbage without any regard for what it is costing Americans.

The truth is our constant flood of reckless, bloated spending bills has blown inflation rates right through the roof, and Americans are going to pay the price.

What are we spending Americans' hard-earned money on you ask, Mr. Speaker?

Well, I will tell you a little bit of it, Mr. Speaker. Over \$45 billion for Ukraine, when Europe should be carrying the burden of these costs. That is \$100 billion total. And don't forget the Democrats blocked any efforts we had to audit this money so we knew exactly where the money was going. That works out to about \$200 million per congressional district, Mr. Speaker. I wonder what we could have spent that on back in east Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, \$1.2 million is going for LGBT pride centers in San Diego. That is a whole heck of a lot of pride.

Mr. Speaker, \$3 million is for an LGBT museum in New York City; nearly half a million dollars is for an equity institute in Rhode Island; \$545 million is for international family planning and reproductive health—including in areas where population growth would dare to threaten biodiversity or endangered species.

Over \$400 million is for Middle Eastern countries to protect their borders, Mr. Speaker, when we don't even protect our own dadgum borders.

Mr. Speaker, we only have ourselves to blame, and I hope you have a merry Christmas.

#### FUNDING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to fulfill one of Congress' most basic responsibilities: to fund our government and keep it working for the people.

We are not doing that very well. It is the 23rd of December, the day before Christmas Eve. The weather is bad, Members—we will see how many—are here to fulfill their duty. This sweeping package is anything but garbage, as the previous speaker intoned.

It is, in fact, the essence of supporting our national security, our domestic security, and the welfare of our people. That is not garbage.

This sweeping package secures full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2023.

In reality, Mr. Speaker, this bill should have been passed in September of this year.

Why?

Because the fiscal year ends on September 30, and fiscal year 2023 begins on October 1 of this year.

The Senate had not passed a single appropriation bill by the end of the last fiscal year to provide for the fiscal year in which we are now operating. That ought to be unacceptable for the 535 of us who have been sent here to represent the American people in a responsible way and in a way that reflects that we are adults seized with the responsibility that the American people expect us to meet. Today, too late—but never too late to do the right thing—we will meet that responsibility.

I thank Chairwoman DELAURO, Ranking Member GRANGER, their col-

leagues and staff on the House Appropriations Committee, and the staff director, all who have worked round the clock to help us achieve an end which must be achieved every year. This does not come as a surprise to any of us that we have to fund the government of the United States of America.

So I thank each and every member of the staff of the House Appropriations Committee.

Indeed, I thank Mr. LEAHY and Mr. SHELBY, the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee in the United States Senate. They wanted to get this job done. They wanted to get this job done in a timely fashion. But unfortunately, the United States Senate has become enamored with doing an omnibus at the last second. That ought to be a disappointment for every Member of this body and every American.

As an appropriator myself, I know how much work the committee and the staff perform behind the scenes to keep our government operating, and I commend them all for advancing all 12 of the regular appropriation bills for fiscal year 2023 out of their committee in June of this year—in June—while our colleagues in the Senate had not passed any by September 30.

We passed six of those bills through this House, Mr. Speaker. We sent them to the Senate, and they have not been taken up.

Indeed, for the last 4 years, our House majority has passed legislation to fund almost all of the government by the end of summer. Only, Mr. Speaker, by fulfilling this most basic duty can Congress start to make progress on its other obligations to the American people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you know and as my colleagues know, I am stepping down as the majority leader. But I am returning to the Appropriations Committee, and I pray that I will have some ability and can make some contribution to effecting a rational appropriations process which pursues regular order, and which understands that we ought to pass every appropriation bill through this House, every one, all 12, by the end of June, which accepts the premise in the United States Senate they ought to pass their appropriation bills by the end of June.

Then we ought to spend July, August, and September in resolving the differences that exist between the Senate and the House on funding priorities. Then by September 30, we will have passed all of those bills and we will have avoided this funding by crisis and avoided this last-minute, Christmas Eve performance of our duties.

Only by fulfilling this most basic duty can Congress start to make progress. We have a responsibility to address issues that undermine the strength and prosperity of American workers and families. That is why this omnibus includes measures to lower costs for Americans by expanding nutrition assistance programs, increasing